



State of Tennessee

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 166

By Representatives Harry Brooks, Matheny, Kent Williams, Dunn, Todd

A RESOLUTION to commend Taiwan for its relations with the United States and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, on January 14 of 2012, the United States congratulated President Ma Ying-jeou on his re-election victory and commended Taiwan for its free and fair fifth direct presidential election. The people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) should be proud of this latest milestone for their democracy; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish the values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. The United States shares with the Taiwan people a profound interest in the continuation of cross-strait peace and stability and looks forward to working with Taiwan's leaders from both parties to ensure that a bilateral strong economic and people-to-people relationship is maintained; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the ninth-largest trading partner of the United States, and the United States is Taiwan's third-largest trading partner. Taiwan's economic freedom is making its economy the 18th freest in the world and is ranked 5th out of 41 economies in the Asia-Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan had adopted important measures to strengthen its security and immigration systems in accordance with U.S. statutory requirements for membership of the Visa Waiver Program. On December 22 of 2011, Taiwan was nominated for inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually beneficial sister-state relations since 1980, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year. Taiwan's candidacy of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program is a significant step forward toward encouraging and facilitating more mutual interests to the great State of Tennessee by Taiwan travelers, which also strongly serves U.S. interests; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community with a long history of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as environmental protection. Taiwan joined the American Red Cross in humanitarian effort to provide immediate relief and donated \$30,000 to Nashville Area Chapter in July of 2011. Taiwan's willingness to provide Tennessee with humanitarian support during its recovery from the disastrous effects of floods and tornados exemplifies the generosity and volunteer spirit; now, therefore,

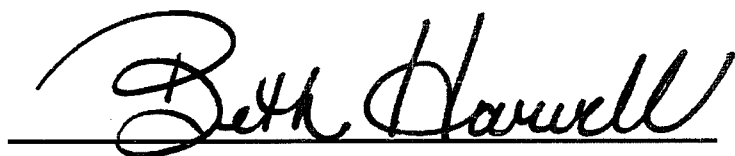
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that the members of this body commend and support the democratization efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as the other international organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body hereby welcomes all opportunities, such as resuming meetings of the US-Taiwan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and the inclusion of Taiwan to participate in the United States' Visa Waiver Program, to enhance the special sister-state bond between Tennessee and Taiwan, and encourages further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of Tennessee and Taiwan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Anna A. Kao, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.

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ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 23, 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Beth Harwell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B". The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES